



The California Master Plan for Education

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Master Plan for Education?

The Master Plan for Education is a long-term, strategic plan for a single, seamless system of education from pre-kindergarten through postsecondary education that will produce better schools and higher levels of student achievement in *every* school, college, and university. The main objective of the plan is to focus the education system on student success.

Why do we need the Master Plan?

The Master Plan directly responds to the public's demand for quality education. Our current educational system does not meet the needs of many students or the public at large. Every family must be provided with the information, resources, services, and support to give every child the best possible start in life and in school. In addition, every public school and college needs the resources and the authority to ensure that every student receives a rigorous, quality education that prepares him/her to become a self-initiating, self-sustaining learner for life. A long-term, comprehensive plan is needed to meet these needs across California.

Who developed the Master Plan?

The Master Plan process began in the fall of 1999 when a joint committee, convened by the Legislature, began redrafting the 40-year-old "Master Plan for Higher Education" to encompass the full span of education as a coherent system, pre-kindergarten through postsecondary education.

Seven working groups, each made up of 25 to 65 leaders from education, business, and civic backgrounds, met for more than a year to formulate policy recommendations in key subject areas for the joint committee's consideration.

The Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education, under the leadership of State Senator Dede Alpert (D-San Diego), created a final Master Plan for Education and delivered it to the California Legislature in August 2002.

How does the Master Plan become a reality in California?

With the plan complete, the California Legislature recently reauthorized the Joint Committee to continue for two more years. The committee will help develop the legislation necessary to implement the foundational parts of the Master Plan. The Master Plan will serve as a roadmap for policymakers for the next two decades.

How does the Master Plan ultimately get results for the students of California?

The Master Plan will put students first— rather than the education bureaucracy. Here are some ways it will meet students' needs:

- School financing will directly link expectations for a quality education and the resources needed to achieve them.
- *Every* school site and district will have quality teachers and administrators.
- An independent data agency will collect comprehensive data about the education system which will be used to make future educational, policy and fiscal decisions.
- Computers and Internet access will be incorporated into every student's learning experience.
- Every education provider, from the school to the state level, will have clearly defined responsibilities and there will be a comprehensive accountability system to ensure those responsibilities are met.

How will the Master Plan help teachers?

The Master Plan will help California's teachers become even better trained and more effective by promoting the use of proven, research-based instruction in educating the state's students and by providing professional development opportunities to teachers throughout their careers. Teachers will also be appropriately compensated and given the opportunity to make career advances while continuing to work in the classroom.

How will the plan keep students on the right track from the time they are born?

The Master Plan promotes early learning. It will improve school readiness and achievement by proposing a set of coordinated programs and services for families and children from birth through grade three, especially those from low-income households, including access to preschool for families that choose to enroll their young children.

Does any other U.S. state offer a similar education plan?

California is the first state in the nation to have one comprehensive plan that envisions aligning all sectors of education.

Where can I obtain more information about the Master Plan for Education?

Visit the Master Plan for Education's Web site at <http://www.sen.ca.gov/masterplan>.